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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3005

August 18, 2010

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The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

1356

Re: MB Docket No. 10-56

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

As the only Hispanic serving in the United States Senate, I write to encourage a timely review, within the applicable laws, rules, and regulations, of Comcast and General Electric's (GE) proposed NBC Universal (NBCU) joint venture. Although a thorough review is necessary, I believe that the potential opportunities for minority media ownership through this transaction could be beneficial to the public, including Hispanic Americans in this country.

It is my understanding that Comcast and NBCU made substantial commitments to the Hispanic community in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which was negotiated after much hard work with leading Hispanic civic and community leaders. This unprecedented MOU includes commitments in the areas of Board governance, employment, procurement, philanthropy, and programming that will create opportunities in all areas of the business. Specifically, their commitment to increasing media ownership and expanding business opportunities for minority programmers is to be commended. In particular, I laud the announcement that Comcast will add independently-owned and operated cable networks with substantial Latino ownership interests, expand carriage of existing Latino-owned channels and establish an external Hispanic Advisory Council, as well as diversity councils representing other communities, to advise on these initiatives moving forward.

Moreover, Comcast, General Electric, and NBCU have a strong presence in New Jersey and invest significantly in my state's economic growth. Collectively, these companies contribute more than 7,500 good-paying jobs and over \$750 million in annual payroll and benefits to the state. Comcast alone reports more than 4,700 employees, and 186 facilities, offices and call centers in New Jersey. Since 1996, Comcast has invested more than \$3.6 billion in the state's technological and infrastructure development. GE's energy and healthcare businesses have sites in ten major cities throughout the state, and NBCU has over 800 employees among four sites in New Jersey.

The collaborative nature of the Memorandum of Understanding represents the potential positive impact the Comcast/NBCU joint venture could have on all communities, both in New Jersey and across the country, if the transaction is approved. The FCC has the obligation to review the proposed venture and determine whether the public interest benefits outweigh any potential harm. Accordingly, I welcome the FCC's commitment to conduct its review of this transaction expeditiously.

Sincerely,



ROBERT MENENDEZ
United States Senator



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

September 29, 2010

The Honorable Robert Menendez
United States Senate
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Menendez:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's review of the proposed joint venture between Comcast Corporation and General Electric Company (GE), together with GE's subsidiary, NBC Universal, Inc. I appreciate your interest in this important transaction and value your views. We will make your correspondence part of the record in the proceeding.

I agree that the Commission's analysis of the proposed Comcast-GE transaction must be thorough, fair, and conducted in an expeditious manner. Staff studied carefully the Commission's past practices in reviewing proposed transactions in order to develop procedures that better achieve these objectives. As part of this effort, the Commission's *Public Notice* seeking comment on the applications required that all substantive issues be raised in the initial filings so that the parties would have the opportunity to address the issues as early as possible in the proceeding.

Please be assured that the issues discussed in your letter, including the potential benefits of a combined Comcast-NBC Universal to the American public, will be considered carefully as part of the Commission's independent review of the transaction. Our staff will continue to work diligently as it reviews the record compiled in the proceeding, including all petitions and comments received from the public. We also will continue to coordinate our efforts with those of the Department of Justice as we strive to have a comprehensive and timely review.

I appreciate your interest in this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Julius Genachowski